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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 10 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Tajikistan has requested me to convey its sincere gratitude for the selfless assistance provided by the United Nations system to the population of the Republic, which has been the victim of civil war and natural disasters.

At the same time, we would request that further consideration be given to our problems, which Tajikistan will simply not be able to overcome on its own.

As a result of the armed conflicts of 1992-1993, over 50,000 people were killed; over 350,000 people became refugees, including 150,000 who went to neighbouring countries; and 300,000 people were left homeless. According to estimates by the expert mission of the World Bank, the overall costs of carrying out an emergency programme to rebuild the structures destroyed during the armed conflicts and natural disasters of 1992-1993 amount to US$ 116.4 million, not counting the costs involved in remedying the consequences of the natural disasters of 1994.

Disastrous floods struck Tajikistan in May 1992 and May 1993, and there were heavy snowfalls from the end of March to the beginning of June 1994. Bridges were destroyed, roads were cut off, electricity and communications were severed, irrigation systems were put out of operation and cultivated land along river basins was flooded. Schools and health facilities were damaged.

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Some 23,600 families suffered from the destruction caused by the civil war. About 35,000 homes were destroyed. In the regions that were hit by floods, about 35,000 people were left homeless and 25,000 were resettled from damaged homes.

The floods destroyed 1,800 homes and seriously damaged 8,300 others. In all, about 39,000 dwellings were damaged.

The floods damaged the lands along the Yak-Su and Kyzyl-Su rivers, where dikes extending for 100 kilometres were destroyed. About 100 bridges were damaged and over 1,000 homes were destroyed. Irrigation systems over an area of 39,000 hectares were destroyed. The damage to the Yak-Su river system is estimated at approximately US$ 70 million and the damage to the Kyzyl-Su river system at US$ 20 million.

Significant damage was caused to 96 school buildings, of which 17 (serving 20,000 students) were totally destroyed, and 50 schools were looted during the disorders. A further 25 schools were damaged during the natural disasters. Those losses exceed US$ 75 million.

Of 74 vocational and technical institutes, 45 suffered losses of equipment and teaching materials. The overall damage to the vocational education system exceeds US$ 25 million. At least US$ 10 million will be needed over the next few years to rebuild the system of education and vocational and technical training and restore their facilities.

As a result of the war, 61 medical establishments in the south of the country were destroyed and floods wrecked a further 20 medical establishments. Large quantities of medicines, equipment and vehicles were looted and destroyed, and child immunization programmes were halted.

During the civil war, the Dushanbe thermal electric power station suffered significant damage, and the building site of the Rogun hydroelectric power station was seriously damaged by the 1993 flood. The structures at the Sangtud hydroelectric power station were also flooded. There was considerable damage to approach roads, canals and surface protection structures.

In order to restore normal operation at two electric power stations - the Nurek and Baipaz power stations - components need to be acquired for the sluice, turbine and instrument operations, as well as storage batteries and lubricating and dielectric oils. The total cost of the programme for restoring the electric power sector is estimated at US$ 17.7 million.

The total damage to the communications sector is estimated at approximately US$ 10 million.

As a result of the floods, about 600 kilometres of roads were damaged. During the civil war, 55 bridges were totally or partially destroyed and 418 road fixtures were destroyed or lost.

The approximate cost of restoration work in the agricultural and water management sectors is US$ 26 million.

In the area of health, there is a shortage of the most vital medicines, including vaccines (BCG and DTP), of raw materials and packaging for pharmaceutical factories, and of equipment and spare parts. The total cost of restoring the normal functioning of this sector is over US$ 8.5 million.

The programme for roads includes the rehabilitation and repair of 165 bridges and 592 kilometres of damaged roads. The cost of the work planned is US$ 22.7 million.

A priority goal is the restoration of housing. Today over 180,000 people are homeless. The estimated cost of the programme is US$ 15.7 million.

The overall costs of implementing the restoration programmes are estimated at US$ 116 million; taking into account the need to remedy the consequences of the natural disasters of 1994, they are estimated at about US$ 140 million.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 under item 5 (a).

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative